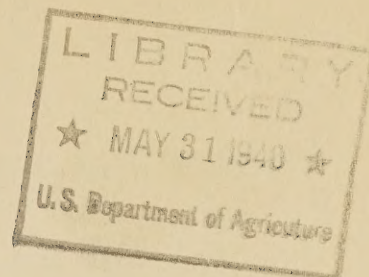


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Income and Earnings of Farm Laborers

by

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Division of Farm Population and Rural Welfare

Presented before the Senate Committee
on Education and Labor

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Figure 1.- Comparison of supply-demand ratios with index of wage rates
per day without board

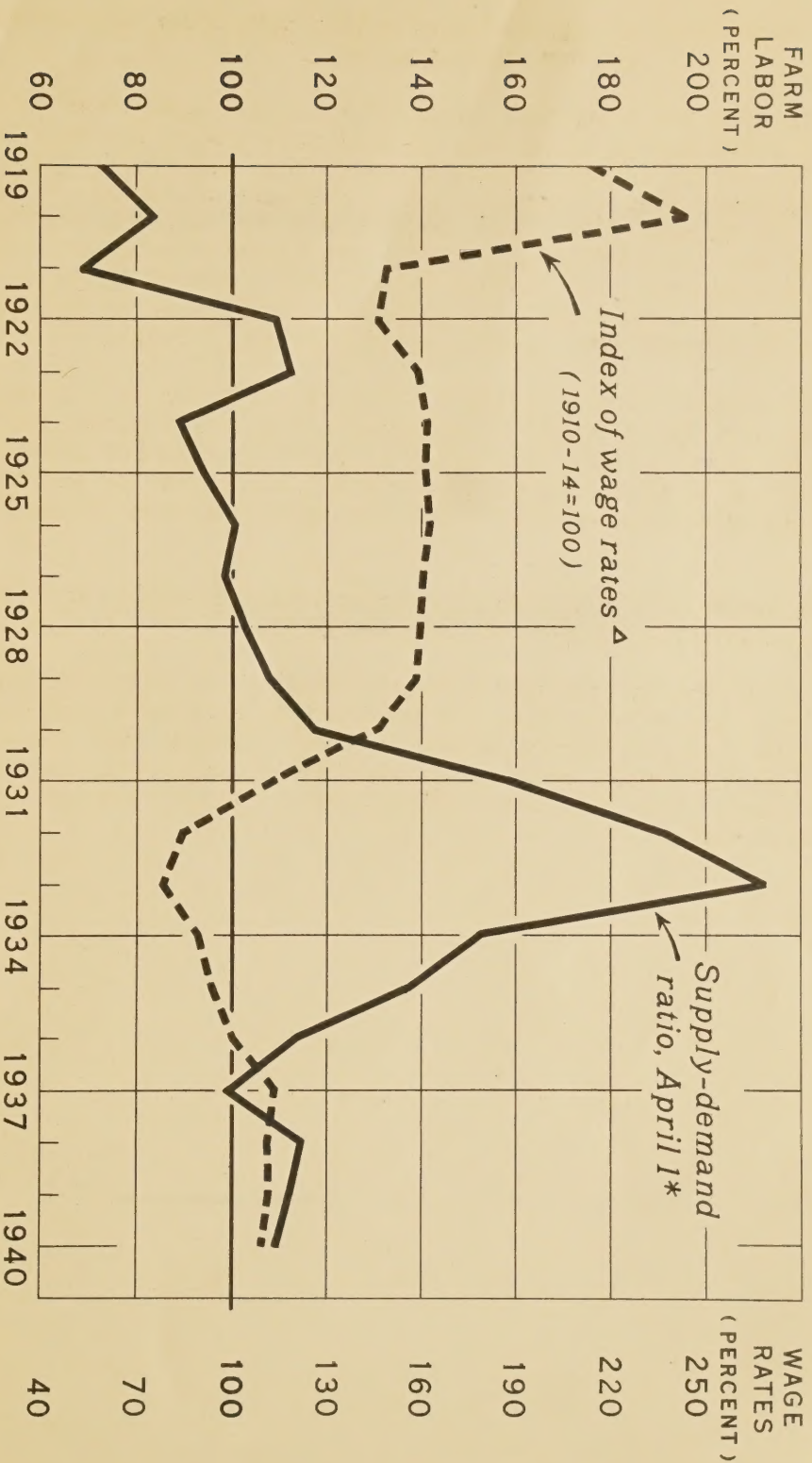
Since 1918 the Department of Agriculture has maintained an index series on the farm labor supply and demand in conjunction with its Crop Reporting Service. The series is based on information supplied quarterly by a few thousand voluntary crop reporters. The reporters' estimates are their appraisal of the current farm labor supply and demand made in comparison with the "normal" for the particular period. The normal concept probably is subjected to a constant but gradual change over a period of years somewhat in relation to changing needs. It probably is subjected to interpretations in relation to current crop acreage and conditions, also.

This chart shows the supply and demand ratio for farm laborers expressing the farm labor supply as a percentage of the demand. Since 1927, with the exception of 1937, the supply of farm laborers has exceeded demand. Between 1927 and 1933 the supply of workers exceeded the demand for workers in increasing proportions. Since 1933 the trend has been toward an equilibrium.

Wage rates fell consistently between 1926 and 1933. But since 1933 a noticeable or gradual upward trend has occurred.

In comparing the two trend series, that of the supply-demand relationship with the wage rate series, a significant inverse correlation is apparent. As the supply of farm laborers tended to exceed demand, wage rates declined, and as the supply-demand ratio fell, wage rates increased. Wage rates changes, however, appear to have reacted more slowly to changes in the supply-demand ratio.

FARM LABOR SUPPLY AS PERCENTAGE OF DEMAND, APRIL 1, AND AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE RATES INDEX, 1919-40



* SUPPLY AS PERCENTAGE OF DEMAND. (NORMAL SUPPLY WITH NORMAL DEMAND=100)
Δ WAGE RATES PER DAY WITHOUT BOARD

SOURCE: AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Table 1.- The regional differences in supply-demand ratios and wage rates

On a regional basis marked differences are apparent, both with respect to wage rates and the supply-demand ratio. During the past $2\frac{1}{2}$ years four of the geographic divisions, the West North Central, West South Central, Mountain and Pacific, consistently have reported a surplus of farm laborers greater than the surplus reported for the Nation. The East South Central and the South Atlantic Divisions reported surpluses which were less than the national average.

Wage rates were consistently lower than the national average in the three southern divisions: the South Atlantic, East South Central, and West South Central Divisions. They were invariably higher than the national average in the other six divisions.

In comparing the particular regional supply-demand ratio with the respective wage rate data during this $2\frac{1}{2}$ year period a relationship is indicated, comparable with that shown for the Nation in Figure 1. Comparisons between regions do not follow since it would be based on an assumption that the same level or cost of living exists for all areas, which may or may not be true. Adequate data to compare money wage rates with real wage rates are not available. Therefore, inter-regional comparisons of wage rates or earnings should be understood to be subject to this qualification.

Table 1.- Comparison of supply as a percentage of demand with wage rates per day without board, by regions, quarterly periods, 1938-40

Geographic divisions:	1938				1939				1940		
	Jan. 1	Apr. 1	July 1	Oct. 1	Jan. 1	Apr. 1	July 1	Oct. 1	Jan. 1	Apr. 1	
Supply as a percent- age of demand:											
New England	114.1	118.5	108.6	103.5	105.2	106.0	97.3	100.1	106.0	104.9	
Middle Atlantic	104.5	102.2	100.5	101.0	114.3	107.7	102.3	102.5	110.7	105.4	
East North Central	114.8	115.4	107.5	106.2	117.6	111.4	104.1	102.6	111.7	108.3	
West North Central	129.4	119.1	108.7	119.4	129.4	118.6	112.1	115.8	122.9	116.6	
South Atlantic	106.2	105.6	102.7	108.1	111.5	101.8	96.0	97.5	102.8	98.4	
East South Central	107.1	105.8	104.9	106.7	113.0	102.4	92.5	108.0	110.0	102.0	
West South Central	125.0	119.2	117.8	118.5	129.3	122.8	114.3	119.7	128.4	117.0	
Mountain	131.6	131.2	119.7	118.7	132.1	122.1	121.0	114.6	121.9	119.8	
Pacific	121.5	131.3	128.4	131.3	128.9	128.7	118.3	113.9	124.1	118.3	
United States	115.6	114.7	110.1	112.9	119.7	112.3	105.9	108.4	114.7	109.1	
Wage rates per day without board:											
New England	2.51	2.53	2.62	2.58	2.56	2.72	2.71	2.70	2.55	2.58	
Middle Atlantic	2.32	2.32	2.37	2.39	2.20	2.26	2.33	2.35	2.21	2.29	
East North Central	2.04	2.02	2.16	2.16	1.94	2.03	2.15	2.17	1.97	2.02	
West North Central	1.74	1.88	2.09	2.12	1.74	1.87	2.06	2.11	1.77	1.87	
South Atlantic	1.15	1.13	1.19	1.16	1.18	1.14	1.20	1.19	1.20	1.18	
East South Central	1.02	1.01	1.03	1.03	1.03	1.02	1.04	1.30	1.03	1.04	
West South Central	1.24	1.23	1.28	1.24	1.19	1.18	1.26	1.24	1.19	1.18	
Mountain	2.10	2.17	2.31	2.33	2.09	2.22	2.34	2.27	2.14	2.18	
Pacific	2.83	2.81	2.78	2.71	2.62	2.66	2.70	2.79	2.70	2.68	
United States	1.61	1.63	1.63	1.59	1.53	1.53	1.59	1.57	1.55	1.55	

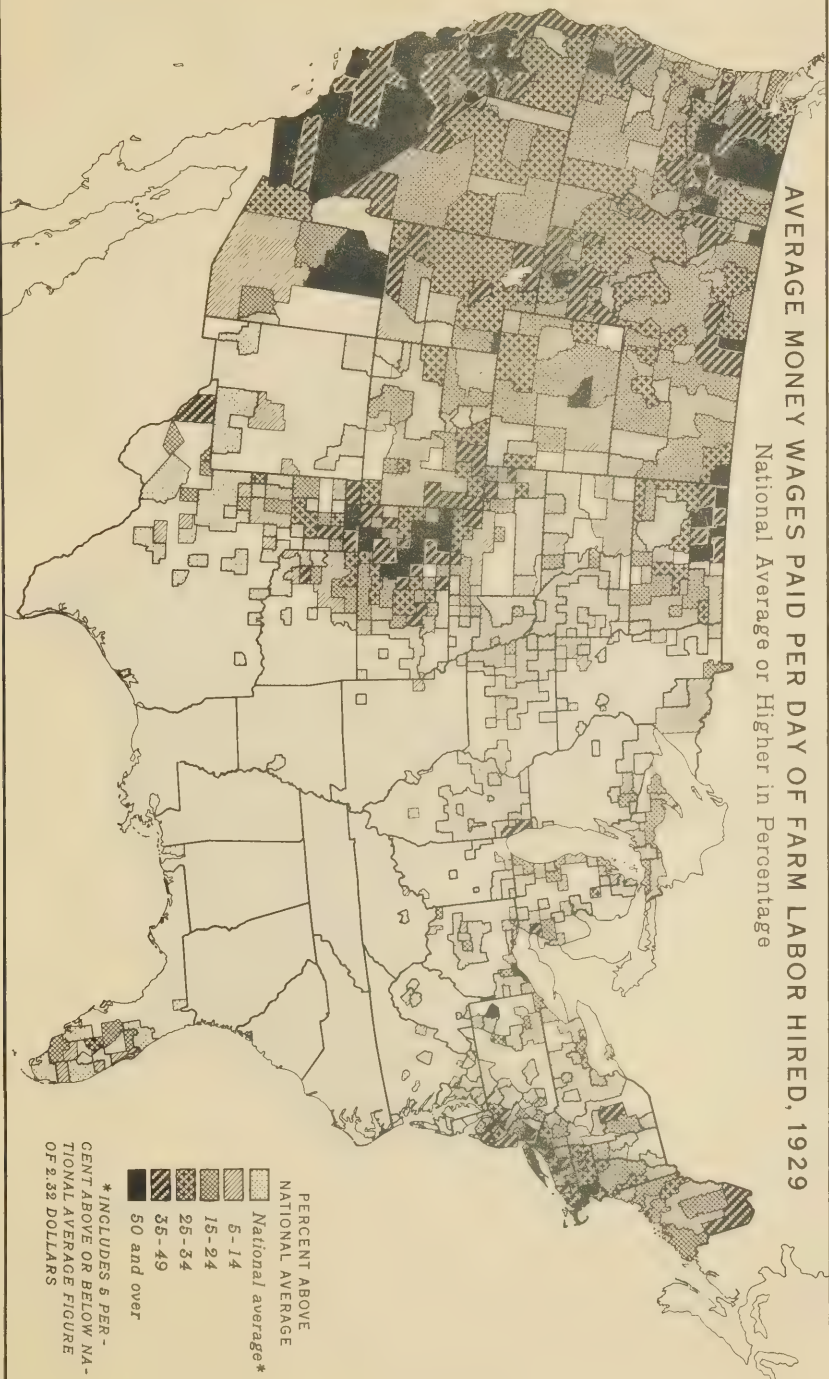
Agricultural Marketing Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Figures 2 and 3.- Average money wages paid per day of farm labor, 1929

Wage rates comparisons for the year 1929 are shown graphically as reported by the census of 1930. Similar conclusions are shown here as those indicated in Table 1.

It will be observed that wage rates below the national average were reported for that part of the country east of the Great Plains, excluding New England, while wage rates in excess of the national average were reported for the other areas. The lowest wage rates were reported for the South Atlantic and the East South Central regions, and the highest for parts of the States of California, Oregon, Washington, Arizona, Kansas, North Dakota, New Jersey and Massachusetts.

AVERAGE MONEY WAGES PAID PER DAY OF FARM LABOR HIRED, 1929 National Average or Higher in Percentage



PERCENT ABOVE
NATIONAL AVERAGE

National average*

5-14

15-24

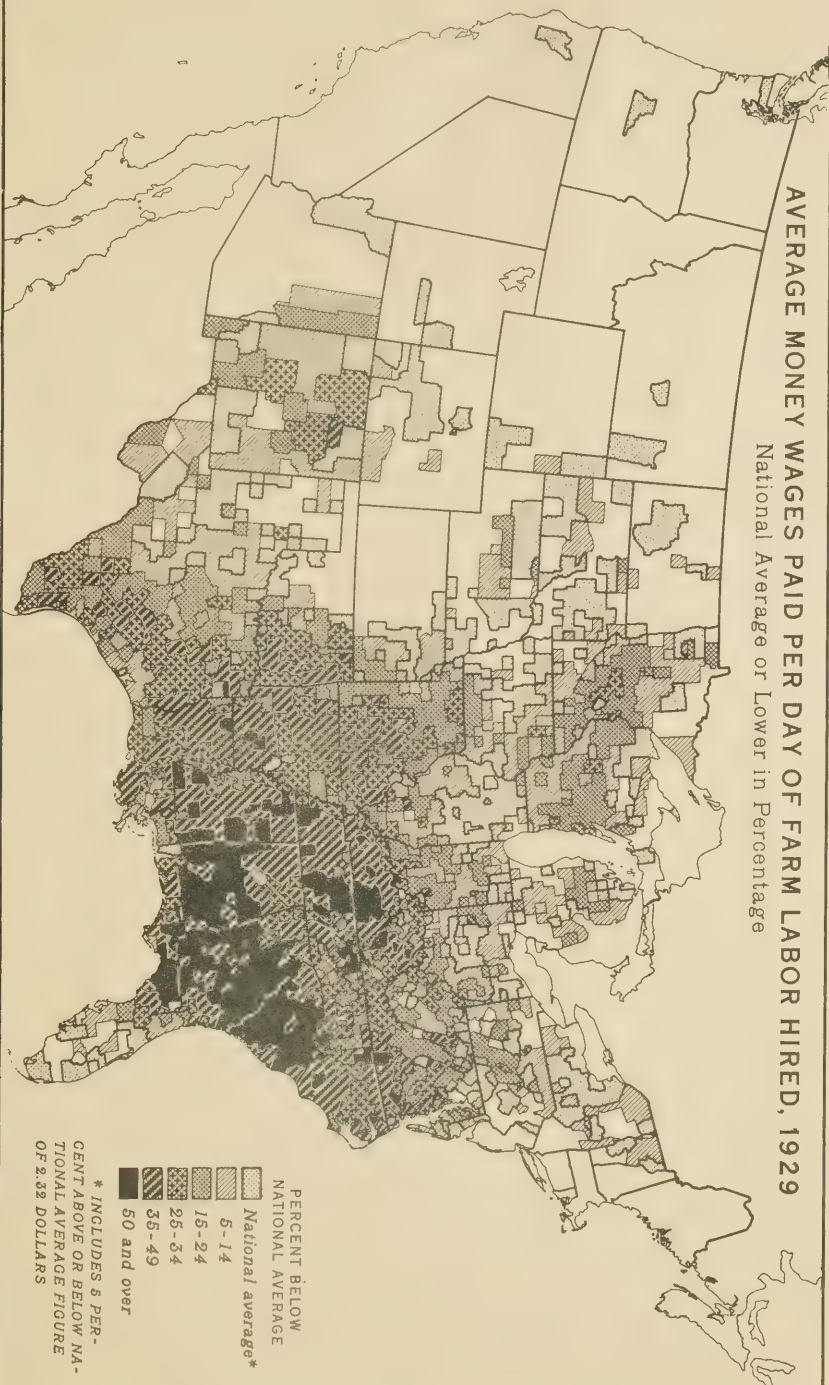
25-34

35-49

50 and over

* INCLUDES 6 PER-
CENT ABOVE OR BELOW NA-
TIONAL AVERAGE FIGURE
OF 2.32 DOLLARS

AVERAGE MONEY WAGES PAID PER DAY OF FARM LABOR HIRED, 1929 National Average or Lower in Percentage



PERCENT BELOW
NATIONAL AVERAGE
National average*
5-14
15-24
25-34
35-49
50 and over

* INCLUDES 5 PER-
CENT ABOVE OR BELOW NA-
TIONAL AVERAGE FIGURE
OF 2.32 DOLLARS

Table A.- Earnings in terms of reported wage rates

Comparisons of earnings of farm laborers are sometimes made on the basis of reported wage rates. Such comparisons assume that each worker obtains full time employment and that full time employment in each area actually constitutes the same number of months' work, in the case of those employed by the month, or the same number of days worked, in the case of those employed by the day. If this were the case, the wage rates series would be indicative of comparative earnings of workers between areas. Because agricultural employment is subjected to extreme seasonal peak and slack periods of work which vary between areas, it is obvious that such assumptions are inconsistent.

For purposes of comparing this sort of an assumption with studies of actual conditions which will follow, this table showing the earnings in terms of reported wage rates is included. Per worker earnings, in 1937, under the assumed condition of 12 months employment at a monthly wage rate without board would range between \$278 in the East South Central Region and \$791 in the Pacific Region. Per worker earnings in 1937, under the assumed condition of 200 days employment per year at a daily wage rate without board, would range between \$210 in the East South Central Region and \$584 in New England.

It is reasonable to assume that, in regions having a surplus of labor, the average earnings for the total labor supply would be somewhat less than that indicated by the wage rate series. Therefore, should such comparisons be made, they should be accompanied by adjustments to allow for comparative surpluses or shortages of labor. Even with these adjustments, there would remain the need for further allowances for levels or costs of living to arrive at real earnings for the various regions.

Table A.- Earnings in terms of reported wage rates assuming full time employment, 1/ 1937.

Regions	: :Average wage :rate per month: :without board	: :Earnings :if totally :employed	: :Average wage :rate per day :without board	: :Earnings if totally :employed :(200 days per year)
	: :Dollars	: :Dollars	: :Dollars	: :Dollars
New England	: 54.25	: 651	: 2.92	: 584
Middle Atlantic	: 46.10	: 553	: 2.37	: 474
East North Central	: 46.37	: 556	: 2.12	: 424
West North Central	: 36.68	: 440	: 2.06	: 412
South Atlantic	: 27.24	: 327	: 1.17	: 234
East South Central	: 23.18	: 278	: 1.05	: 210
West South Central	: 31.09	: 373	: 1.27	: 254
Mountain	: 50.75	: 609	: 2.24	: 448
Pacific	: 65.89	: 791	: 2.87	: 574
United States	: 35.01	: 420	: 1.68	: 336

1/ Full time employment for monthly wage rate assumed to be 12 months; for daily wage rate 200 days.

Wage rates data from Agricultural Statistics.

Table 2.- Summary of incomes of sharecroppers and wage laborers in
southern States

Actual data on incomes of hired workers are so scattered and incomplete as to make comparisons difficult. It is apparent from the studies now available that incomes of farm laborers are low and they are lower in some farm areas than in others.

Reasonably comparable data are available for southern States. These data indicate that the net cash earnings of hired workers, whether sharecroppers or wage hands, only occasionally exceed \$100 per worker per year, and that even when goods for home use and perquisites are added, total annual net income per worker seldom exceeds \$150. Low net cash incomes of sharecroppers were reported in recent studies from both the Eastern Piedmont and the Mississippi Black Belt and Delta Areas. The highest net cash earnings were reported in the Piney Woods Area of Texas in 1936, with an average of \$152 per worker. In the case of wage hands, the lowest average cash earnings reported were \$65 per worker per year in the Black Belt in 1934, while the highest earnings were in 1937 in the Delta Areas at \$112 per worker. The data indicate that as regards income the cropper is little better off than the wage hand. The slight income differential in favor of the former is almost wholly accounted for by the differences in the value of production for home use. Per family the difference is greater because of the larger average size of the cropper family. Goods produced for home use constituted a greater proportion of the cropper income than in the case of wage families. This difference is believed to be due to the relatively greater security enjoyed by the cropper. The latter has virtual assurance of one year's tenure of employment.

Table 2.- Adjusted sharecropper and wage laborer net income in specified areas, 1932-37 1/

Areas	:Total :Net		:% home use: Net income		: Net income		: Net income	
	:net :cash		:& perq. of: per person		: per worker		: per worker	
	:income:income:		:total net :Total : Net		: Total : Net		: Total : Net	
	:	:	:income	:net	: cash	: net	: cash	:
Sharecropper:	:	Dollars	Percent	Dollars	Dollars			
1932	:							
Yazoo-Mississippi Delta 2/	:	252	119	52.8	66	31	87	41
1933	:							
Yazoo-Mississippi Delta 2/	:	334	202	39.5	95	58	119	72
1934	:							
Yazoo-Mississippi Delta 2/	:	381	243	36.2	109	69	136	87
Arkansas: Red, Arkansas and	:							
Mississippi River Basins 3/	:	334	217	35.0	88	57	159	103
Atlantic Coast Plain 4/	:	569	355	37.6	96	60	167	104
Upper Piedmont 4/	:	386	204	47.2	74	39	133	70
Black Belt 4/	:	360	207	42.5	69	40	124	71
Upper Delta 4/	:	373	230	38.3	96	59	170	105
Lower Delta 4/	:	204	98	52.0	49	23	85	41
1935	:							
Yazoo-Mississippi Delta 2/	:	424	261	38.4	118	73	146	90
Mississippi Delta 5/	:	492	303	38.4	114	70	141	87
Georgia Piedmont 5/	:	518	187	63.9	93	33	133	48
South Carolina-Coast Plain 5/	:	570	312	45.3	104	57	150	82
1936	:							
Yazoo-Mississippi Delta 2/	:	530	367	30.8	156	108	196	136
Mississippi - Black Belt 6/	:	310	204	34.0	82	54	107	70
Georgia - Lower Piedmont 6/	:	401	162	60.0	73	39	106	43
Texas-Piney Woods Cotton	:							
Area 6/	:	489	303	38.0	109	67	245	152
1937	:							
Arkansas: Red, Arkansas and	:							
Mississippi Deltas 6/	:	483	313	35.0	118	78	161	104
South Carolina Piedmont 6/	:	561	349	33.0	95	59	140	87
South Carolina Coast Plain 6/	:	648	430	34.0	108	72	158	105
Wage Laborer:	:							
1934	:							
Arkansas: Red, Arkansas and	:							
Mississippi River Delta 3/	:	243	168	30.9	87	60	128	88
Atlantic Coast Plain 4/	:	239	164	31.4	70	48	109	75
Upper Piedmont 4/	:	193	126	34.7	84	55	129	84
Black Belt 4/	:	205	136	33.7	64	43	98	65
Upper Delta 4/	:	242	166	31.4	97	66	151	104
Lower Delta 4/	:	245	169	31.0	91	63	136	94
1937	:							
Arkansas: Red, Arkansas and	:							
Mississippi Deltas 6/	:	405	292	27.9	109	79	156	112
South Carolina Piedmont 6/	:	344	228	33.7	93	62	138	91
South Carolina Coast Plain 6/	:	371	273	26.4	76	56	128	94

1/Various studies adjusted for comparability.

2/Source: "Plantation Organization and Operation in the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Area," Langsford and Thibodeaux, USDA Technical Bulletin No. 682.

3/Source: "Plantation Organization in Arkansas," H.W. Blalock, Ark. Exp. Sta. Bull. 339.

4/Source: "Landlord and Tenant on the Cotton Plantation," T. J. Woofor, Jr., WPA.

5/Source: Bureau of Home Economics, USDA, Consumer Purchases Studies, WPA co-operating.

6/Source: Unpublished data, Program Planning Division, AAA, USDA, in cooperation with BAE, USDA, and the respective Agricultural Experiment Stations.

Table 3.- Summary of earnings of hired laborers from various studies, 1930-38

Few of the other studies of farm laborer earnings are comparable, owing to variations with respect to home use products, perquisites, total family earnings, total earnings throughout the year and proper allowances for job expenses (such as travel costs for migrants). However, a summary of many of the studies are presented here (Table 3) as indicative of the economic status of types of workers by areas.

It will be observed that gross earnings range from lowest to highest in the following order: Kentucky Tobacco Area; Texas Cotton Area; New Jersey Truck Area; the Wheat Area of Minnesota and Kansas; the Corn Area of Illinois and Iowa; the Sugar Beet Area of Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, and Wyoming; and the Fruit and Hops Areas of the State of Washington.

Table 3.- Earnings of farm laborers: Various studies, 1930-38

Areas and studies	:	Author of study	:	Cash earnings exclusive of relief income
				<u>Dollars</u>
I. Corn Belt (Resident)	:			
A. Illinois-Livingston Co., 1935-36 <u>1</u> /	:	Vasey and Folsom	:	308
B. Iowa-Hamilton Co., 1935-36 <u>1</u> /	:	"	:	312
II. Small Grains (Resident and non-resident)	:			
A. Wheat-Kansas-Pawnee Co., 1935-36 <u>1</u> /	:	"	:	254
B. Small grains-Minnesota <u>1</u> / Lac qui Parle Co., 1935-36	:	"	:	206
III. Sugar Beets (Resident and non-resident)	:			
Michigan-Minnesota	:			
Montana-Wyoming, 1935	:	Johnson	:	340
IV. Yakima Valley-Washington, 1935-36	:	Landis and	:	
<u>Resident</u>	:	Brooks	:	
A. Fruit and general farms	:		:	
Single workers	:		:	217
Family heads	:		:	198
<u>Non-Resident</u>	:		:	
A. Fruit and general farms	:		:	
Single workers	:		:	334
Family heads	:		:	297
B. Hops, 1937	:	Reuss,	:	
Single persons	:	Landis, and	:	
(1) All workers	:	Wakefield	:	620
(2) Earning from agriculture only	:		:	352
Family heads	:		:	
(1) All workers	:		:	826
(2) Earning from agriculture only	:		:	496
V. Kentucky (Resident)	:	Vasey and	:	
A. Todd Co.-Tobacco, 1935-36 <u>1</u> /	:	Folsom	:	188
VI. A. Truck-general dairy, New Jersey, 1935	:	Folsom <u>2</u> /	:	431
B. Truck, 1938 <u>2</u> /	:	Natl. Child Labor Com.	:	265
VII. Texas, 1937	:			
A. Migratory labor	:	Hamilton	:	225
B. Resident labor	:	"	:	191

1/ Vasey and Folsom studies are averages of single hands and family groups; in some cases they include sharecroppers, tenants and farm owners who worked out as laborers; in some instances migratory and resident workers' incomes are represented in the averages.

2/ Income represents earnings for seasonal employment on the farm only. Average number of days available for farm work was approximately 99. Income figures are case averages including both single persons and families of workers.

ANALYSIS OF PARTICULAR STUDIES

I. Southern Sharecropper Family Incomes

Table 4 shows a comparison of income for sharecroppers in three areas for 1937, and one area for 1938. These data show the total net income, including income from all sources, and the cropper expenses. The cropper's income is derived from a share in the crops he produces, from wage labor for others, and from goods produced for home use and perquisites.

Total net incomes (including home-use goods and perquisites) were higher in Florence County and Laurens County, South Carolina, due largely to the larger families.

Average family sizes were as follows: 5.9 in Laurens County, 6.0 in Florence County, 4.1 for the 1937 Arkansas study, and 4.8 for the 1938 Arkansas study.

In Florence County tobacco, as well as cotton, was grown by the croppers, and this accounts for a part of the higher net income for that county.

Home-use goods and perquisites were also higher in the two South Carolina counties.

Croppers in Arkansas obtained a larger proportion of their net income from working out at wages.

Table 4.- Sharecropper income by sources for Laurens and Florence Counties, South Carolina, 1937, and Bottom Land Areas, Arkansas, 1937 and 1938

Item	Average income per sharecropper family			
	Laurens, S.C.	Florence, S.C.	Arkansas Bottom Land Counties	
	1937	1937	1937 1/	1938 2/
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Income:				
Cotton lint)	343	134	307 3/	237 3/
Cotton seed)	67	23		
Tobacco	-	353	-	-
Other crops	-	-	7	1
Total	410	510	314	238
Wage labor income	24	20	78	88
A.A.A. payments	22	3	8	44
Other cash	24	43	29	18
Total	480	576	429	388
Home use goods and perquisites	212	218	170	151
Expenses:				
Crop expense	107	120	95	65
Other expense	24	26	21	28
Total	131	146	116	93
Net income exclusive of home use goods and perquisites	349	430	313	295
Total	561	648	483	446

1/ Miller, Jefferson and Phillips Counties.

2/ Mississippi, Chicot and Pulaski Counties.

3/ Includes cotton lint and seed sales.

Data for Laurens and Florence Counties, South Carolina, obtained from unpublished manuscript of South Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station, Clemson, South Carolina, "Share-croppers and Wage Laborers in Two Selected Counties in South Carolina," E. J. Holcomb and G. H. Aull, a study made in cooperation with the AAA and BAE, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Data for Arkansas for 1937 (published bulletin), "Recent Changes in Farm Labor Organization in Three Arkansas Plantation Counties," and 1938 (unpublished manuscript) obtained from Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas, by Glen T. Barton and J. T. McNeely. Studies in cooperation with the AAA and BAE, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

II. Wage Family Incomes

Table 5 shows wage family incomes for the same areas shown above for sharecroppers. Incomes for the Arkansas wage families were highest because many of them were assigned small patches of cotton which they worked on a sharecropper basis. By far, a major part of the income came from wage labor and, therefore, they were classified as wage laborer families.

Differences in incomes, other than from share labor, is largely accounted for in differences in sizes of families. Laurens County wage families averaged 3.5 persons, Florence County, 4.9 persons, Arkansas, 3.7 persons.

Table 5.- Wage family income by sources, Laurens and Florence Counties, South Carolina, 1937, and Bottom Land Counties, Arkansas, 1937 and 1938

Item	Average income per wage family			
	Laurens, S.C.	Florence, S.C.	Arkansas Bottom Land Counties	
	1937	1937	1937 1/	1938 2/
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Income:				
Cotton lint)	-	-	49 3/	-
Cotton seed)				
Tobacco	-	-	-	-
Other crops			1	
Total	-	-	50	-
Wage labor income	228	273	254	220
A.A.A. payments	-	-	2	-
Other cash	-	-	11	25
Total	228	273	317	245
Home use goods and perquisites	117	98	113	88
Expenses:				
Crop expense	-	-	15	5
Other expense	-	-	10	3
Total	-	-	25	8
Net income exclusive of home use goods and perquisites	228	273	292	237
Total	344	371	405	325

1/ Miller, Jefferson and Phillips Counties.

2/ Mississippi, Chicot and Pulaski Counties.

3/ Includes cotton lint and seed sales.

For source of data, see Table 4.

III. New Jersey

Table 6 shows the farm laborer incomes for three New Jersey counties for 1935. Gloucester County represents a truck farming area near urban industrial centers. Hunterdon County represents a general and dairy area less affected by intense nearby nonagricultural competition for labor than the two other counties. Monmouth represents a truck and general farming county. 1/

Average earnings for those interviewed in 1936 who worked in 1935 amounted to \$431 for the three counties. The earnings were lowest in Gloucester County (\$375), and those in Hunterdon County the highest (\$487). Earnings, and funds received from other sources, increased the average earnings for the three counties to \$443.

1/ "Farm Labor Conditions in Gloucester, Hunterdon, and Monmouth Counties, New Jersey, April-May, 1936," by J. C. Folsom, B.A.E., U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., February, 1939.

Laborers' incomes, 1935

County or employment status	Earnings				Money obtained or used from other sources				All laborers earning in 1935			
	All laborers	Other income	Relief of laborers	All laborers	All laborers	Other income	Relief of laborers	All laborers	All laborers	Other income	Relief of laborers	All laborers
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Gloucester	587	541	9	8	9	52	2	587	541	9	8	587
Barnstable	277	248	6	15	3	27	2	277	248	6	15	277
Marmouth	727	552	2	2	1	10		727	552	2	2	727
Working for wages												
White males	946	939	11	21	9	35	25	946	939	11	21	946
Negro males	216	213	3	1	1	25		216	213	3	1	216
Not working for wages, but engaged to begin soon												
White males	33	33	0	0	0	2	1	33	33	0	0	33
Working at home without wages												
White males	309	131	3	3	0	1	1	309	131	3	3	309
White females	87	25	0	0	0	1	1	87	25	0	0	87
Total	1,591	1,341	17	25	13	64	1,591	1,341	17	25	13	1,591
Gloucester	418	410	8	7	7	52	2	418	410	8	7	418
Barnstable	243	243	4	13	3	2	8	243	243	4	13	243
Marmouth	524	524	2	2	0	8		524	524	2	2	524
Total	1,195	1,195	14	22	10	62	1,195	1,195	14	22	10	1,195
Average amounts of income - all laborers												
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Gloucester	289	314	163	246	186	60	303	309	303	163	246	309
Barnstable	429	479	125	246	267	36	448	500	448	125	246	500
Marmouth	342	451	510	78	120	120	346	455	346	510	78	455
Working for wages												
White males	443	446	244	251	246	63	456	460	456	244	251	460
Negro males	366	372	20	60	60	44	375	380	375	20	60	380
Not working for wages, but engaged to begin soon												
White males	382	382	0	0	0	195	394	394	382	0	0	394
Working at home without wages												
White males	81	192	167	167	100	14	84	201	84	167	167	201
White females	18	62	0	0	120	190	21	74	21	0	0	74
Total	336	401	191	234	200	69	348	443	348	191	234	443
Average amounts of income of wage workers												
Gloucester	366	375	192	241	211	60	386	386	366	192	241	386
Barnstable	487	487	125	269	267	36	507	507	487	125	269	507
Marmouth	447	448	510	78	0	125	451	451	447	510	78	451
Total	1,280	1,310	196	243	228	68	1,440	1,440	1,280	196	243	1,440

1/ Including receipt of \$30 from sale of property reported by one white male working at home without wages.

IV. Yakima Valley, Washington

Table 7 shows the median annual cash income of heads of families and single individuals interviewed in 1935-36 in the Yakima Valley of the State of Washington. This table shows the marked difference in earnings of workers who received relief as compared with those who received no relief assistance. Those who received relief constitute as much of the labor supply as the non-relief cases, yet they were employed only one-third of the year. Workers receiving no relief were employed rather steadily, despite the fact that four of the six groups worked only 70 percent of the time.

The disparity in the volume of employment obtained, to a certain extent, is a reflection of seasonal demand for labor in the agriculture of that area. The effect of this is noted when compared with median incomes of relief and non-relief cases combined, which are as follows:

Transient heads of households	\$297.00
Transient single workers	\$334.00
Transient households	\$357.00
Resident heads of households	\$198.00
Resident single workers	\$217.00
Resident households	\$274.00

Table 7.- Median annual weeks worked and median annual cash income of family heads, households, and single workers interviewed in the Yakima Valley during the year 1935-36

Farm labor group	Relief cases		Non-relief cases	
	Median	Median	Median	Median
	weeks worked	cash income	weeks worked	cash income
Transient heads of households	16	\$171	38	\$416
Transient single workers	17	152	38	357
Transient family households	19	223	50	594
Resident heads of households	13	175	39	429
Resident single workers	11	136	36	380
Resident family households	20	200	45	529

Obtained from Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin No. 343, State College of Washington, "Farm Labor in the Yakima Valley, Washington," by Landis and Brooks, Pullman, Washington, December 1936.

V. Six Sugar Beet Areas

Table 8 shows the median yearly earnings of families for sugar beet labor and the total yearly income of sugar beet laborers from all sources, exclusive of relief for six areas. Total median earnings ranged between \$280 in southern Minnesota and \$740 in southern Michigan, but for the 343 families reporting for the six areas the median was \$430. Sugar beet labor provided \$340 (79 percent) of the total earnings for workers in the six areas, but in southern Minnesota beet labor provided \$240 (86 percent) of the earnings from all sources.

Table 8.- Median yearly earnings of families for beet labor
and for total yearly income of beet laborers from all
sources except relief, by area, 1935 1/

Area	:Income from all sources:		Earnings from beet labor	
	: Families	: Median	: Families	: Median
	: reporting	: amount	: reporting	: amount
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
Six Areas	343	430	374	340
Three Eastern Areas	207	440	227	360
Central Michigan	97	520	111	400
Southern Michigan	41	740	42	600
Southern Minnesota	69	280	74	240
Three Mountain State Areas	136	410 <u>2/</u>	147	320
Northern Wyoming	22	<u>2/</u>	26	450
Southern Montana	62	370	66	250
Sidney, Montana	52	400	55	340

1/ Period between close of harvest season 1934 and close of harvest season 1935. These data include only the families visited after the close of the 1935 topping season.

2/ Median income from all sources except relief not reported for northern Wyoming area specifically but included in three mountain state areas' combined figure.

Obtained from "Welfare of Families of Sugar-Beet Laborers," by Elizabeth S. Johnson. Publication of Childrens' Bureau, U. S. Department of Labor, Washington, D. C., 1939. Publication No. 247, pp. 64 and 68.

VI. Comparable Earnings for Ten Areas

Table 9 shows the average earning of workers in ten areas in the United States for the same year. This is the only study available which was made and tabulated for a number of areas in the same manner for the same period. The data were obtained from workers selected at random who were found to be working at adult work in agriculture at the time of enumeration. For that reason the data are significant. They represent the earnings of typical workers employed in agriculture in the particular areas. Unfortunately, time and money limitations prevented the inclusion of data with respect to perquisites and home-use goods incomes and job expenses, such as travel costs. These data are, therefore, gross cash earnings.

Total earnings ranged between \$112 in the Self-sufficing area of Tennessee and \$353 in the Dairy areas of Pennsylvania. Earnings from agricultural employment ranged between \$69 in the Tennessee area and \$286 in the Pennsylvania area.

These figures are case averages of earnings of single individuals who had no dependents, together with earnings of laborers with dependents, including any earnings which they obtained.

Table 9.— Average income of farm workers from agricultural and nonagricultural sources in ten widely scattered counties in the United States, 1935-36

County, State, and Area	: :Total :earnings ^{1/}	:Agri- :cultural: :earnings	:Nonagri- :cultural: :income	:Average :relief :receipts ^{2/}	:Percentages :with no :dependents
	: Dollars	: Dollars	: Dollars	: Dollars	: Percent
1. Fentress County, Tennessee: Self-sufficing Area	: 111.57	: 69.06	: 42.51	: 15.21	: 43.2
2. Concordia Parish, La. Cotton Area	: 131.06	: 100.04	: 31.02	: 6.21	: 49.0
3. Karnes County, Texas Cotton Area	: 170.54	: 162.13	: 8.41	: 1.36	: 25.6
4. Todd County, Kentucky Tobacco Area	: 187.70	: 168.60	: 19.10	: 3.36	: 36.1
5. Lac qui Parle County, Minn. Wheat Area	: 206.33	: 185.26	: 21.07	: 3.49	: 94.2
6. Pawnee County, Kansas Wheat Area	: 254.41	: 212.05	: 42.36	: 7.48	: 67.5
7. Archuleta County, Colorado Stock Ranch Area	: 341.18	: 224.13	: 117.05	: 19.66	: 63.6
8. Livingston County, Ill. Corn Area	: 313.37	: 286.36	: 27.01	: 9.55	: 55.0
9. Hamilton County, Iowa Corn-Hog Area	: 311.68	: 292.57	: 19.11	: 5.02	: 68.8
10. Wayne County, Pennsylvania Dairy Area	: 353.29	: 285.96	: 67.33	: 1.31	: 73.4

^{1/} Job expenses, including travel, and income from perquisites and home-use goods not obtained.

^{2/} Not included in total.

"Survey of Agricultural Labor Conditions," Vasey and Folsom, Farm Security Administration and Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, cooperating, Washington, D. C., September, October, November, 1937.

SEASONAL DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS

I. United States and Ten General Areas

It has already been stated that employment and earnings of farm laborers are not evenly distributed throughout the year. Seasonal peak and slack periods are common to all areas, but variations exist between areas with respect to the time when the peak or slack seasons occur. Laborer earnings tend to follow the employment pattern for the particular area.

Data with respect to the seasonal distribution of employment are available for various areas of the United States based upon averages calculated to approximate a normal seasonal distribution of work on general crop and livestock farms. ^{1/} These data are shown representing normal seasonal employment expressed in terms of the percentage of the average for the year for all workers, hired workers and family workers.

Employment for the country as a whole normally reaches a low about the first of January and reaches a peak about June 1, after which a decline in employment occurs to a summer low about August 1. A second peak is normally reached about October 1, which is followed by a decline to the winter low mark.

Employment by areas follows this general pattern for the nation with the principal differences between areas occurring in the magnitude of the changes, in the particular months of peak and slack employment and in the rates of change. Without exception, hired workers find greater irregularity of employment than family workers.

The greatest disparity in peak and slack employment for family workers and hired workers occurred in the Northwestern Area when the fluctuations were no greater than 17 percentage points for family workers. For hired workers, however, employment normally varies by as much as 98 percentage points. Disparity in the seasonal swings of employment between family and hired workers was least in the Delta and Eastern Cotton Areas, where family employment varied by 53 and 60 percentage points, respectively, while hired labor employment varied by 63 and 70 percentage points, respectively.

The smallest amount of seasonal variations occurred in the Corn Area, where the seasonal swings amount to no more than 11 percentage points for family laborers and 50 percentage points for hired laborers, normally.

States included in the particular areas are listed on
the following page

^{1/} "Trends in Employment in Agriculture, 1909-36," by Shaw and Hopkins, W.P.A. National Research Project Publication No. A-8, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 1938.

States included in the particular areas are:

Eastern Dairy: New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New York, N.

Western Dairy: Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota

Corn Area: Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio

Middle Eastern: Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina

Eastern Cotton: South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama

Delta Cotton: Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana

Western Cotton: Texas, Oklahoma

Small Grains: Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana

Range: New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada

Northwestern: Idaho, Oregon, Washington

Figure - UNITED STATES: SEASONAL VARIATION
IN AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT, 1925-36

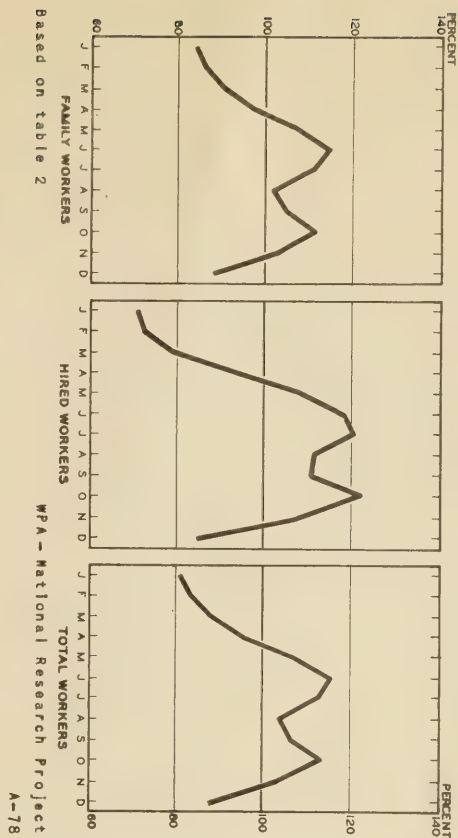


Figure - DELTA COTTON AREA: SEASONAL VARIATION
IN AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT, 1925-36

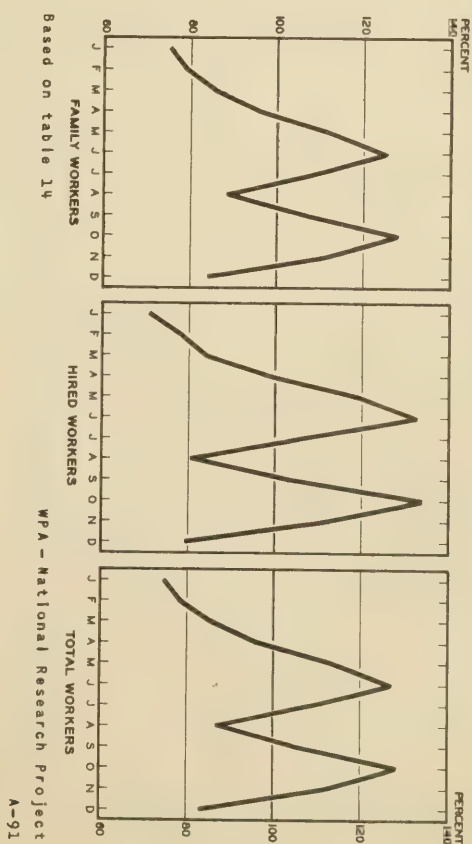


Figure - EASTERN COTTON AREA: SEASONAL VARIATION
IN AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT, 1925-36

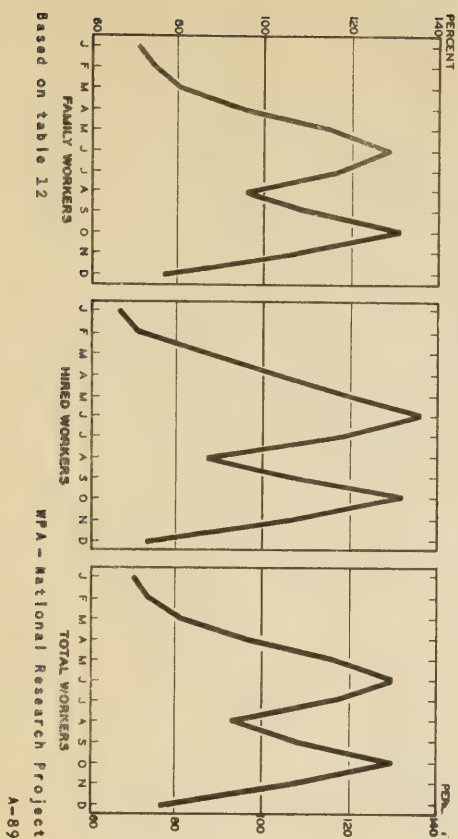


Figure - WESTERN COTTON AREA: SEASONAL VARIATION
IN AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT, 1925-36

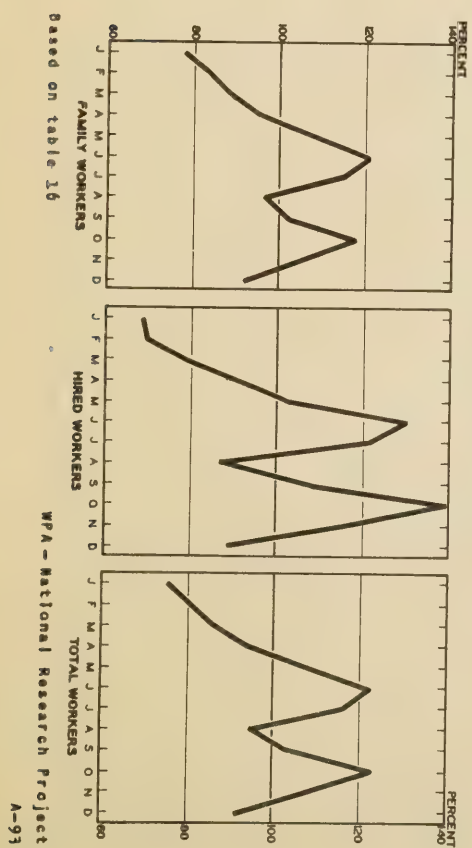


Figure - CORN AREA: SEASONAL VARIATION IN AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT, 1925-36

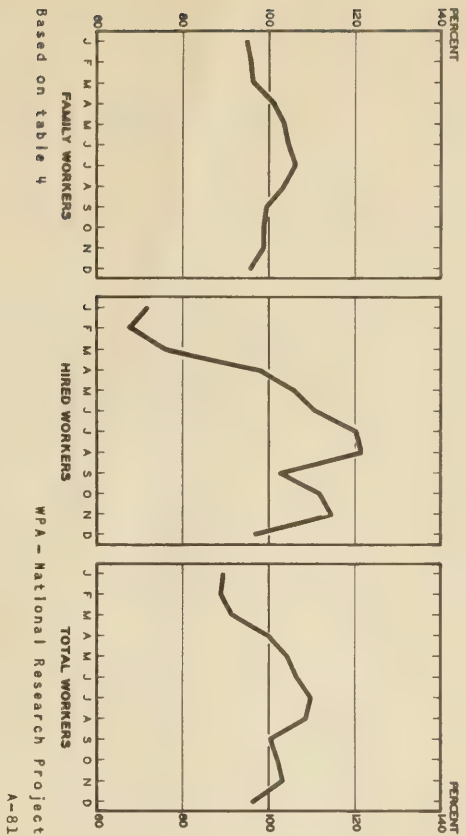


Figure - SMALL GRAIN AREA: SEASONAL VARIATION IN AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT, 1925-36

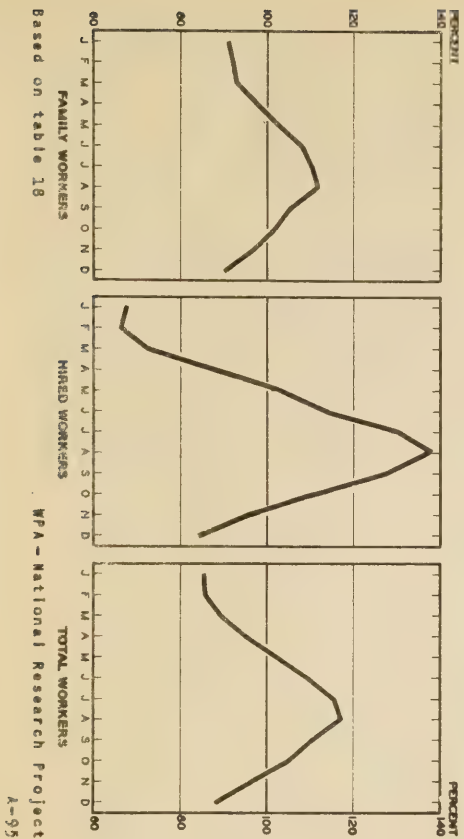


Figure - NORTHWESTERN AREA: SEASONAL VARIATION IN AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT, 1925-36

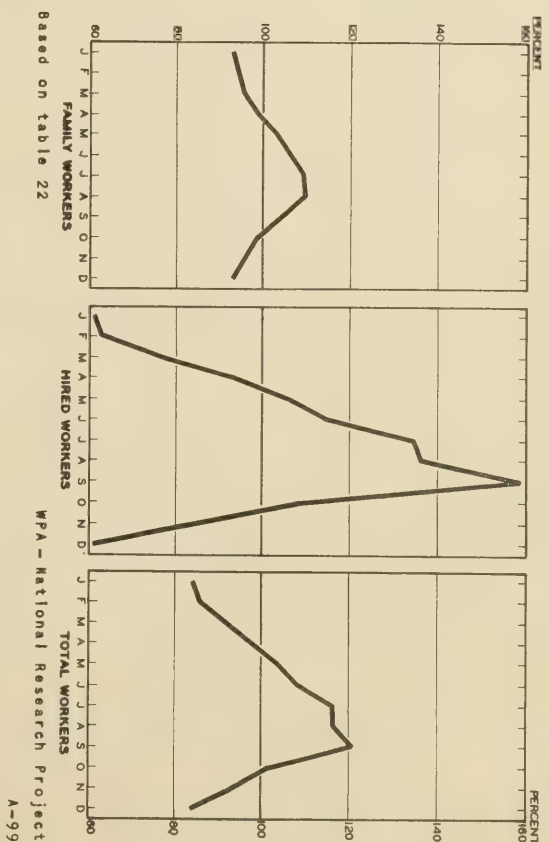
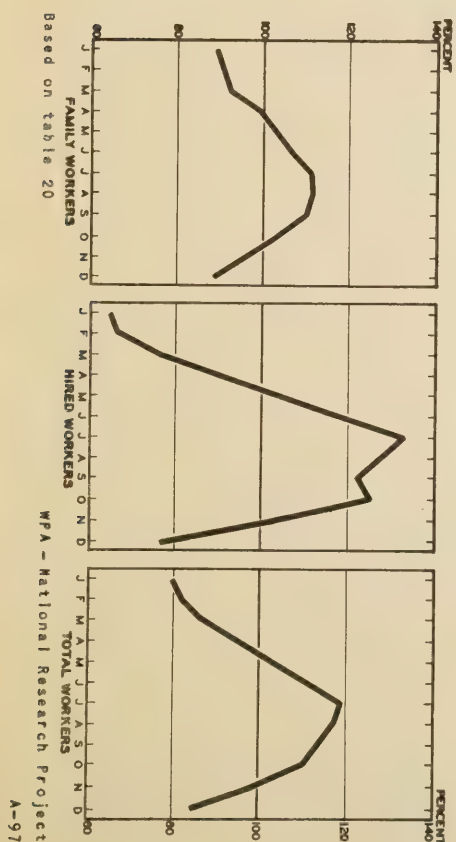


Figure - RANGE AREA: SEASONAL VARIATION IN AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT, 1925-36



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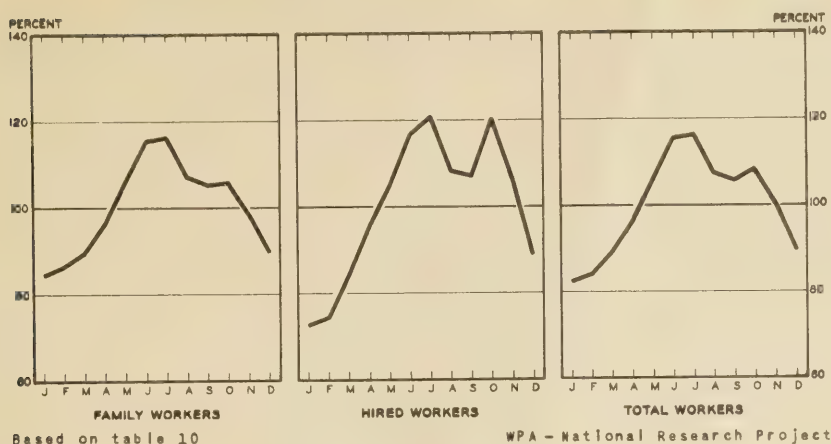
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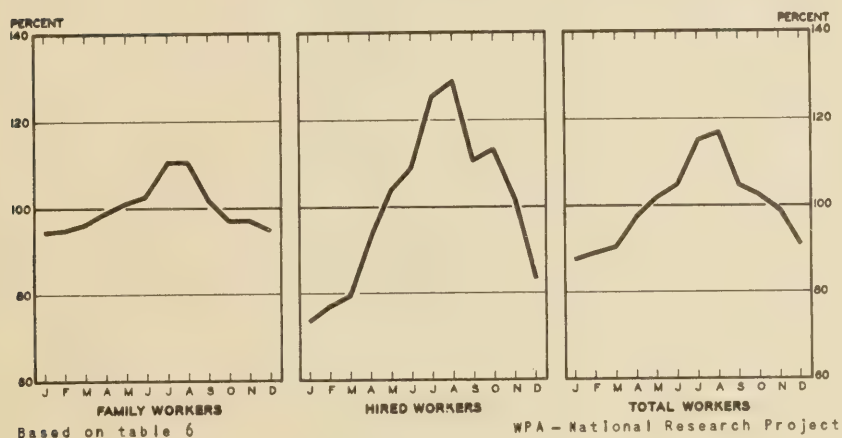
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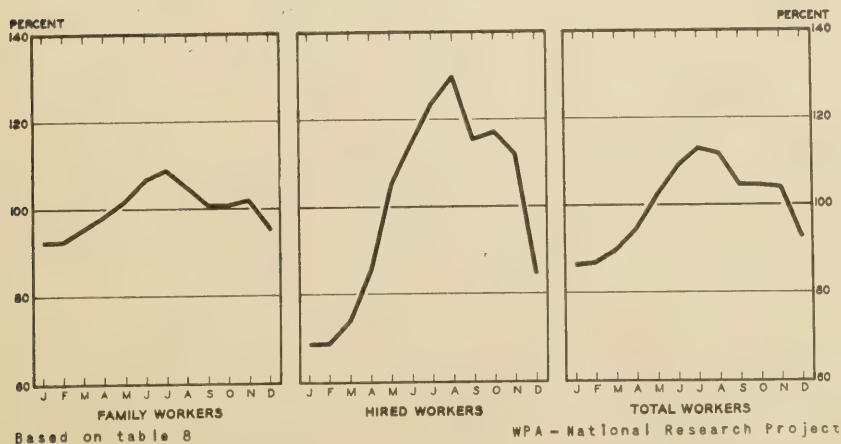
**Figure - MIDDLE EASTERN AREA: SEASONAL VARIATION
IN AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT, 1925-36**



**Figure - EASTERN DAIRY AREA: SEASONAL VARIATION
IN AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT, 1925-36**



**Figure - WESTERN DAIRY AREA: SEASONAL VARIATION
IN AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT, 1925-36**



II. Four Southern Areas

Few studies show the seasonal variations as they affect individuals. For that reason Tables 10 and 11 are included here, showing the average number of days worked for sharecropper and wage laborer families in four southern areas.

In Laurens, South Carolina, and in the two Arkansas areas the fewest days worked were reported for January, August, and December; and peak periods occurred in June, July, September, and October for sharecroppers and wage labor families.

In Florence, South Carolina, the summer slack period did not occur. Tobacco is produced in this area along with cotton, and it requires considerable labor during July and August. This resulted in a more even distribution of work compared with the other areas (Table 10).

Data with respect to the seasonal distribution of earnings are available only for wage families in the two South Carolina counties (Table 11). In each of these counties the monthly earnings distribution followed the monthly employment distribution closely.

Table 10.- Seasonal distribution of employment, sharecroppers and wage laborer families, Laurens and Florence Counties, South Carolina, 1937; Arkansas Bottom Lands and Upland Areas, 1938

Months	Year, area, and tenure class							
	1937				1938			
	Sharecroppers		Wage families		Ark. bottom land		Ark. Upland	
	Laurens, S. C.	Florence S. C.	Laurens, S. C.	Florence S. C.	Share-croppers	Wage laborers	Share-croppers	
	Days worked		Days worked		Days worked		Days worked	
January	20	26	19	22	4	8	3	
February	24	26	23	23	7	9	8	
March	33	34	28	26	11	16	17	
April	40	61	30	36	14	16	20	
May	69	76	40	45	34	28	45	
June	76	83	42	47	40	33	48	
July	74	86	40	48	34	29	42	
August	21	87	21	48	16	20	17	
September	71	82	33	50	49	39	47	
October	72	73	33	47	49	37	36	
November	61	50	33	36	24	23	13	
December	24	23	19	18	6	11	4	
Total	584	708	371	446	238	269	300	

For source, see Table 4 for South Carolina and Table 5 for Arkansas.

